



CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Volume 4



REMINDER – 24-Hour Independent Expenditure Reporting

The Commission continues to remind committees, groups, and individuals seeking to make independent expenditures for General Assembly candidates in excess of \$1,000 that we are now in the period in which such expenditures, whether made or incurred, must be reported within 24 hours.

For more information, please see our [webpage](#) on independent expenditure reporting or give us a call at 860-256-2940.



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Expenditure-Side Online CEP Training Modules

As spending heats up, committees are encouraged to review the online training modules created to assist treasurers during the pandemic. They can be watched from home, at your convenience, and are broken up into small bite size pieces by topic, with the longest taking only 18 minutes to watch. There are several designed to help committees comply with the expenditure and wrapping up phases of the campaign and they can be found [here](#). These modules are as follows:

- (1) Committee Expenditures;
- (2) Expenditures by Other Sources;
- (3) Compensation, Reimbursements, and Consultants; and
- (4) Post-Election Reviews and Termination.

The five online modules on becoming a candidate and raising qualifying contributions have been heavily used – with some modules receiving over 2,000 viewings! The treasurers made good use of the information as, for example, more committees had an early and smooth approval process for their online contribution sites than ever before.

If you have any questions that come up while you are viewing the trainings, please contact your elections officer. As always, we are here to help!





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Notice to All Ongoing Political Committees Biennial Re-Registration Due November 16, 2020

All ongoing political committees that file with the Commission must file, by November 16, 2020:

- ♦ An amended registration - SEEC Form 3 (traditional political committees) or SEEC Form 8 (independent expenditure political committees) - if there have been any changes since its last registration; OR
- ♦ An amended registration - SEEC Form 3NC (traditional political committees) or SEEC Form 8NC (independent expenditure political committees) - if there have been no changes, additions or deletions since the committee's last registration.

The failure of a committee to file one of these two forms by November 16th will result in the committee being prohibited from accepting lobbyist contributions during the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions and prohibited from making contributions to committees covered by the sessional lobbyist provision during these sessions as well. Committees will be receiving further instructions via email soon and are encouraged to email seec@ct.gov with any questions.

A Note About Documenting Online Advertising

For those committees utilizing any online platform for advertising - and more than ever are this cycle! - best practices are to obtain and retain copies of invoices or bills directly from the online platform or provider.

An online platform is any public-facing website, web application, or digital application, including social media such as Facebook or Twitter, ad networks, and search engines. This is important because those ads for which you are paying money, and which crop up and disappear and can't been seen or easily checked on by the treasurer, have to be approved by the treasurer as permissible expenditures. The invoices or receipts from the online platform are the easiest and best way to do this!



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Final CEP Deadlines Coming Up!

If you plan to participate in the Citizens' Election Program and have not yet applied for a grant, please be aware that there are two sets of deadlines coming up.

First, the final grant reduction deadlines have arrived:

Grant Reduction Deadlines – 5:00 p.m. on the following dates:	Reduction Amount
If you apply between Tues., Sept. 22, 2020 through Mon., Oct. 5, 2020	Committee will receive fifty-five percent (55%) of the grant for which they otherwise qualified.
If you apply between Tues., Oct. 6, 2020 through Fri., Oct. 9, 2020	Committee will receive forty percent (40%) of the grant for which they otherwise qualified.

Second, the final grant application deadlines have also arrived. The **final application deadline for a general election grant is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020**. Below are the remaining application deadlines and meeting dates for a general election grant:

Application Deadlines – 5:00 p.m. on the following dates:	Commission Meeting Dates
Wednesday, October 7	Thursday, October 15
Friday, October 9*	Friday, October 16

Grant applications must be **received** by Commission staff by the 5:00 p.m. deadline and contain the SEEC CEP Form 15 as well as the SEEC Form 30 in support of the grant application and back-up documentation for contributions believed sufficient to meet the required thresholds. SEEC Form 12 should also be included if it has not already been provided and, if applicable, a buffer check or petition signature information for unaffiliated or minor party candidates.



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Upcoming Quarterly and Pre-Election Filings Due in October

Please note that the below-mentioned filings must be electronically submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date. If you are exempt from using eCRIS, your paper filing must be in our office by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date.

October Quarterly Filing (Town Committees, Political Committees, Candidate Committees)

The filing period for the October quarterly report (**October 10 Filing**) commenced October 1, 2020 and ends October 13, 2020. All town committees, political committees, and candidate committees* must file this report regardless of financial activity. The filing must cover the period starting with the first day after the period covered by the last filing through September 30, 2020.

***Important Note:** Candidate committees of candidates who never make it onto the ballot but remain open are required to file the October quarterly report. The only candidate committees that are not required to file are those of candidates who were unsuccessful in a primary and are not eligible to appear on the general election ballot.

12th Day Preceding Election Filing (State Central Committees)

State central committees do not have to file the October quarterly filing but do have to submit the twelfth day preceding the election filing, which is due October 22, 2020, regardless of whether they had any activity.

7th Day Preceding Election Filing (Town Committees, Political Committees, Candidate Committees in Non-CEP Races)

In addition to the October quarterly filing, all town committees, political committees, and General Assembly candidate committees in a race where there is no candidate participating in the CEP must also file the 7th day preceding election filing due October 27, 2020, regardless of financial activity.

***Filing Tip for Town Committees and Political Committees:** When preparing to file the seventh day preceding election filing due October 27, 2020, please be sure to select "7th Day Preceding General Election" filing in your standard dropdown menu. The report, "Independent Expenditure General Election" filing, in the nonstandard dropdown menu is not the proper report name for this filing.



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Weekly Supplemental Filings (Candidate Committees in CEP Races)

Every General Assembly candidate committee in a general election race in which there is at least one candidate participating in the CEP must file weekly supplemental statements with the Commission beginning with the second Thursday following the October quarterly filing through the Thursday before the election. CEP candidate committees of candidates who are unopposed must only submit the final weekly supplemental filing. As mentioned above, candidate committees in general election races with **no** candidates participating in the CEP do not file the weekly supplemental filings but rather the 7th day preceding election filing.



The weekly supplemental filing deadlines are as follows:

Name of Report	Period Covered	Filing Deadline
First Weekly Supplemental Filing General Election	10/01/20 – 10/20/20	10/22/20
Final Weekly Supplemental Filing General Election*	10/21/20 – 10/27/20	10/29/20

*** Please be sure you are selecting the Final Weekly Supplemental Filing for your last filing, and not the 7th Day Preceding General Election Filing. The dates covered by these reports are different.**





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CONTACT US

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Staff Spotlight

In August, the Commission welcomed Staff Attorney Alyssa Torres. Also in August, the Commission, along with the Freedom of Information Commission and the Office of State Ethics, welcomed Charla Vincent as a human resources generalist assisting all three agencies.

Secretary Subrina Persaud and Legal Investigator James Augustyn recently left the Commission to pursue other career opportunities.

Accounts Examiner Ergys Guni and his family welcomed their second child, a son, on August 1, 2020.

Welcome, Alyssa and Charla! Thank you, Subrina and James! Congratulations, Ergys!